

Newsletter July 2024

Spasm HealthCare Museum, Building 6 Victoria Rd Gladesville
Situating at the Crown Street bus stop on Victoria Road Gladesville



Our AGM this year was a very pleasant occasion with a quick meeting and a long lunch! There was no need to vote this year so our executive remains the same. Peter is enjoying his role as co-curator and Gary is grateful for his enthusiasm and help in that role. This year we have an official new fire Warden, as Kerry Maroney has attended not one but two in-service presentations that the facilities management organize. Thank you so much for doing that Kerry and taking on that role.

Other good news this year is that we had 11 new members join the Society. Eight nurses joined from the last OTA Conference. We have 3 official Friends of the Society: Maureen, Helen and John. We also now have 23 Life members of the society.

This year we named two rooms after members who have made significant contributions to our organisation. In Building 1 The Anaesthetic room has been renamed "The Ross Holland Anaesthetic room" and the new operating room opposite has been called "The Anne Jaumees Operating Theatre"

We would like to thank **all** of the members of the Society for your continued generosity and support without which the Museum could not function. John, Val, Kate, Kerry, Gary, Peter and Ros have been regular attendees at open days, so special thanks to them. And a special welcome to potential helpers Magda, Violet, Jenny, Helen, Sue and Ian who offered to help on the recent planned group tour day. Although not needed in the end (due to Covid) your offer of support on the day was very much appreciated.

July 24

Attendance at a Health Care Museum such as SPASM allows visitors to reflect on the past, to contrast with the present and contemplate the future.



Our AGM lunch this year was particularly cozy on the verandah of building 5. The lunch was delicious. Thanks to all who provided their specialty dishes.

Attending were executive: Sandra Solarz, Gary Klopfer, Peter Hartigan and Ros Berryman. Regular attendees: Val Corcoran, and Kerry Moroney. Special welcome to Debbie Dobbs, Karen Croghan, Magda Gross, Marion O'Farrell, Jill Klopfer, Kerri Moroney, & Ian Edmiston.

Thanks to those who sent apologies and your best wishes they were very much appreciated. We know illness kept a number of you at home.

Visiting the HealthCare Museum in real time or online.

Opening hours for the Museum are 11 am – 3pm on the 2nd Saturday and 4th Monday of each month - February to November. Prior arrangements for small Group visits may also be arranged on those days or other days – depending on volunteer availability.

Executive Members :

President: Sandra Solarz

Co Curators : Gary Klopfer & Peter Hartigan

Secretary /Treasurer: Ros Berryman

Volunteer Guides: Val Corcoran, Kate Sauer, Carol Logie, Kerry Moroney, John Murphy & Peter Hartigan

Email : info@spasmuseum.org.au

Contact SPASM by phone 0414993138

SPASM web sites at www.spasmuseum.org.au

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SPASM1>

We also feature on the Hunters hill web page:

<https://www.facebook.com/discoverhh>

And the Museum and galleries of NSW website:

Entry to the Museum takes you to another era:

Building 1

The Corridor gives a time line of the Tarban Creek Asylum - Gladesville Hospital.

1. The Ross Holland Anaesthetic Room. Showcases the changes in anaesthetic apparatus used by surgeons, dentists and anaesthetists over the years. Look for: the ventilator, which has bicycle gears as part of its internal mechanism

2. The Anne Jaumees Operating Theatre circa 2000 has a "new" op table, mayo stand, anaesthetic machine and endoscopic tower. All items were donated by Canterbury Hospital.

3. The Pharmacy room shows beautiful jars, and bottles, household remedies and also some early dispensing records, There is also an optical collection and some straight jackets to view.

4. The small room outback has the large EEG machine and ECT machines on display along with additional anaesthetic instruments and equipment.

Building 6

Room 1 takes us to a 1911 Consulting room: "**The consulting room of Dr. John Sand Smyth**" who practiced in Warwick Queensland. Also The Five Dock GP "**Dr. Menzies collection**" is in the large display case at back. The 1936-2006 instruments of GP **Dr. Leslie Bruce Johnson** are also now in this room.

Room 2. The surgical "pick room" contains instrument cupboards with a display of surgical instruments, sutures and blood collecting apparatus.

Room 3 The St Thomas Hospital Operating Theatre has a display of receptacles used in the operating theatres as well as an early operating table, early surgical instruments as well as ENT, obstetric, and general instruments. A timeline is provided for innovations. The early challenges of pain, sepsis & blood loss is explained.

Room 4 The haemostasis room an impressive display of diathermy units as well as other methods used to prevent bleeding during operations. Tourniquets, clamps, suturing material, bone wax, and more. Then there is the 1930's operating table, a swab rack, a large print photo of RNSH Thoracic Theatre Nurses C1954. Plus our 2024 acquisition the Sigmamotor heart lung pump machine.

The corridor to the exit takes you past a display of hearing trumpets, tracheostomy tubes and other historical equipment. There are small formaldehyde sterilising cupboards, sterilizing drums, as well as small water bath sterilizers used at the South pole! The dental section shows 4 types of dental drills, including a **very old treadle drill**, used between 1890s and 1930's. Our 2023 exhibit the C1920's Ritter-Biber X-ray machine takes pride of place at the end of the Corridor.

The library work area is now a pleasant place to sit & relax take tea and work on cataloging the many artifacts we have that have not been entered into the computer.

The World War I & II area is now complete with its large photograph of Casualty Clearing Station Operating Theatre in France and instrument sets used during both wars.

Building 5

The Tea Room for group tea or coffee

The Gladesville room The staff bundy clock, and religious artifacts used at Gladesville during services: a very old bible; church organ & pew. There are photographs and some stories about past patients and attendants, as well as literature about the past history of the asylum.

SPASM – MINUTES 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Saturday, 13 July 2024 **TIME:** 12.md

VENUE: Museum Building 5 VERANDAH, TEA ROOM OF SPASM -Victoria Road entrance to Gladesville Hospital **PARKING** BESIDE BUILDING 6

AGENDA

Present: Sandra Solarz, Ros Berryman, Gary Klopfer, Val Corcoran, Peter Hartigan, Kerry Maroney, Ian Edmiston, Karen Croghan, Debbie Dobbs, Marion O'Farrell. Jill Klopfer, Kerri Maroney & Magda Gross.

Apologies: Peter Hales, Anne Jaumees, Violet La Forrest, Warren Bruce, Marg Troy, Madonna Grehan, Sharni Brown, Robyn Upton, Lexi Upton, Judith Meppem, John Murphy, Kate Sauer, Jenny May, Sue Nagy, Sue Kelly & Jenny Cubitt.

Minutes of last AGM meeting (2023) held August 2023 circulated at AGM

Business Arising the question of the extra \$13 paid this year (a second bill of \$70 instead of the normal \$57) was asked by Ros to the M of H (twice) with no response by M of H and it was felt too small a sum to risk antagonism about. **Approval of previous Minutes** moved by Ros Berryman seconded by Val Corcoran all in favour

Combined 2024 Report of President Secretary & Curator circulated

Report moved by Sandra Solarz seconded by Marion O Farrell all in favour.

Treasurers 2024 report: circulated

Report moved by Ros Berryman seconded by Debbie Dobbs all in favour

Any other business:

No elections scheduled for this year.

The date of this AGM was changed due to Gary and Ros being unavailable in August

Apologies for any inconvenience.

Marion advised that the Sue Kelly is in palliative care at Elizabeth Bay Lulworth House. She sent her apologies.

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No further business the Meeting Closed at 1230pm

Date of Next AGM 2nd Saturday in August 2025



Thanks to the Department of Health who organized a fire training day for all Wardens at the Gladesville site late last year. This photo was taken at a recent training session when we had a practice of the Co2 fire extinguishers. Hopefully we will never need to put our new skills or our new warden's caps (pictured below) to the test.

Good tips were: if evacuating down stairs have your bag on the shoulder of the hand using the stair rail and if in a shopping center don't go to your car as the car park will probably be in lock down and you may not be able to get out!



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NSW O.T.A.

South Coast Museum
SPASM